



EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND THE ROLE OF ENGLISH IN A GLOBAL WORLD: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

English is the most widely used and popular language in the present world. It has been statistically reported that around half of the population of the world speak in English. English is used as mother tongue in many countries. But the people using other than English as a mother tongue have to learn English to cope up with the present day to day life. However, it is also true that mother tongue plays a crucial role in shaping our thoughts and moulding the future lives. It is really praise worthy that Government of India has emphasized in the use of mother tongue in the primary level in NEP 2020. The need to learn English language cannot be ignored in this world of globalization. Moreover, English is a language of technology. The use of internet is almost impossible without knowing English. The importance of English language is seen in many fields of international significance. In the recent years many nations have made English as their chief foreign language in schools and colleges for the most important reasons which is always educational. The demand for a language which is universally intelligible is widely felt and frequently voiced. The need of the hour is to enlighten the future aspirants in the academic discipline that rests on functional relevance. This paper aims to explain how English language has become essential for the people around the world.

KEYWORDS: English, NEP 2020, Globalization, Technology, Internet

INTRODUCTION

The mother tongue always plays a crucial role in developing our thoughts and shaping our future lives for various reasons. It is impossible to ignore the importance of mother tongue in anyone's life. It is our identity as well as it ensures our existence in this greater world. It is really commendable on the part of the Government where in NEP 2020 the emphasis is given in the use of mother tongue to teach in primary level.

But with the present context of competitive world the need of learning English cannot be ignored. English language has been given the official or semi-official status in more than 65 countries in the world. There is always a problem to choose among many indigenous local languages as each of which represents an ethnic background. By giving official status to an outside language, such as English, all the internal languages are placed on the same footing. With high respect to the mother tongue, it is said that today English has become the tongue for survival and the custodian of our future. The demand for a language which is universally intelligible is widely felt and frequently voiced. English, at present is the only lingua franca in a position to adopt as the role of the world's topmost language. There is always a need to communicate at the world level. English is emerging as a medium of communication in all the growth areas which will gradually shape the twenty first century domestic or professional lives.

Along with the teaching in mother tongue in the school level, in India the primary aim of teaching English should be to enable the learners to equip themselves to understand, speak, read, and write in English. The necessity of learning English in the

present global situation is felt and realized all over the world. If we observe a few growth areas such as international relations, the press, the motion pictures, popular music, education, communication etc. it is found that the English language plays the main role at several levels. The League of Nation was the first among many modern international alliances to allocate a special place to English language in its proceedings. The League of Nations was replaced by the United Nations later on and it consists of several distinct organs, programmes, and specialized agencies, as well as many regional and functional commissions, standing committees, expert bodies, and other organizations. English is one of the official languages within all these structures. International politics operates at several levels and in many different ways, but the presence of English is usually not far away. When the television cameras present an event to the world audience, it is notable how often a message in English can be seen on a banner or placard as part of the occasion. Whatever the mother tongue of the protesters may be, they know that their cause will gain maximum impact if it is expressed through the medium of English. A famous instance of this occurred a few years ago in India, where a march supporting Hindi and opposing English was seen on the world television. The irony lies on the fact that most of the banners were in Hindi, but one astute marcher carried a prominent sign which read 'Death to English'- thereby enabling the voice of his group much further around the world.

In the recent years many nations have made English as their chief foreign language in schools and colleges for the most important reasons which is always educational. English is the medium of a great deal of the world's knowledge especially

in areas like science and technology. The English Language Teaching (ELT) has become one of the major growth industries around the world in the past fifty years. An illustration of the scale of the development can be seen from the work of the British Council, which in 1998 had a network of offices in 109 countries promoting cultural, educational or technical cooperation. In 1995-96, over 400,000 candidates worldwide appeared in English Language examinations administered by the council. At any time during that year, there were 120,000 students learning English and other skills through the medium of English in Council teaching centres. These facts clearly reflect the need of learning English in all its forms to cope with the present fast changing economic as well as social scenarios.

A language as an international medium directly deals with the task of communication such as the postal and telephonic systems and the electronic networks. Though the accurate information about the use of English in these domains is not easy to get, it is well known that English is one of the chief mediums of communication around the world. No one monitors the language we use when we talk on the phone. But on the internet, where messages and data can be left for indefinite periods of time, it is possible to develop an idea of how much of the world's everyday communication is actually in English. In April 1996, The New York Times published an article by Michael Specter headed "Computer Speaks; World, Wide, Web: 3 English words", in which the role of English was highlighted and he said "if you want to take full advantage of the internet there is only one way to do so: learn English". The English language has been an important medium of the press as well in the world for nearly 400 years. Recently the most highly circulated newspapers such as USA Today, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Times of India etc. are published in English language.

Dominance of English language is conspicuous in some other fast growing growth areas such as Motion Pictures and Popular Music. The movies like Jurassic Park, Aladdin, Forest Gump have been able to attract huge number of audience and the use of a universally intelligible language in such movies has a magnificent contribution in this respect. The influence of a movie on the audience is uncertain, but it is observed by German Director Wim Wenders that people increasingly believe what they see and they buy what they believe in and people use, drive, wear, eat and buy what they see in movies. If this is true, the most movies in English language will definitely be remain significant in the long run. Besides movies, when popular music arrived, it was almost on English scene. Music is one of the most prominent sources which has spread the English language around the youth of the world rapidly and pervasively. Reasons for travelling abroad may be many and various. It covers from routine business trips to annual holidays. But each journey has immediate linguistic consequences and the travelers need to know as well as interpret more languages. In the tourist spots of the world, accordingly, the signs in shop windows are most commonly in English. For immediate future it is difficult to foresee any developments which could seriously reduce the status of English on the information superhighway. The biggest potential setback to English as a global language, it has been

said in a lighter note, would have been taken place a generation ago-if Bill Gates had grown up speaking other than English.

CONCLUSION

Keeping in view all the aspects relating to the importance of mother tongue and the use of English the higher education policy makers should also take the initiative to formulate the introduction of English which would be functional in the real sense of the meaning. The need of the hour is to enlighten the future aspirants in the academic discipline that rests on functional relevance and it is highly expected that effective English learning would help the learners to enhance a sound personality to cope up with the global competitive academic world.

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